



# BUDGET COMMITTEE



Judd Gregg, Ranking Member  
<http://budget.senate.gov/republican>

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*For Immediate Release:*

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## **GREGG: HEALTH REFORM WILL UNDERMINE OUR NATION'S HEALTH CARE AND FISCAL SITUATION**

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) released the following statement on the Democratic Majority's health care bill which was approved today by the Senate by a vote of 60 to 39.

Senator Gregg stated, "The weeks leading up to Christmas are typically reserved for family celebrations, winter activities, and last-minute shopping. However, this year the Senate Majority showed us a new way to celebrate the season: the consideration of the ever-evolving Democratic health reform bill. This process has delivered very little cheer during its closed-door negotiations, back-room deals for certain states, Bernie Madoff-style budget gimmicks, and limited opportunity for amendments to improve this massive \$2.3 trillion, 2,457 page bill.

"But now that the Senate has acted, I hope that all of my colleagues in Congress will take a step back and consider whether this legislation is what the American people deserve. It fails to achieve the three key goals that the President initially laid out, and which I also support: universal coverage, reducing the growth of health care costs, and allowing Americans to keep their current health insurance plan if they like it. Instead, it will dramatically grow the size and cost of government, raise premiums, put seniors at risk by raiding Medicare in order to fund a new entitlement program, increase taxes, and encourage employers to stop providing health insurance benefits. Also, this bill will still leave millions of people uninsured. According to the Administration's own actuaries, not only does the bill ignore the already skyrocketing cost of health care, but it actually increases it further. Lastly, it will undermine the nation's fiscal situation and further burden our children and grandchildren with more debt.

"Clearly, the American people deserve better than this so-called reform bill, and it's no surprise that a growing majority of them oppose this bill. Congress still has the opportunity to listen to their concerns and pass legislation that will truly improve our health care system in a fiscally responsible manner. It's not too late to use common sense."

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